

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

The microscopic creatures within the soil under our feet exert a profound influence upon our lives: more perhaps than any of us realize, making life possible here on earth.

Their number is legion. A tiny thimbleful of earth, not much more than a generous pinch, can be host to 175,000,000—a greater population than there are humans in the U.S.

What's more, under ideal conditions just one of these 175,000,000 can produce 16,000,000 descendants within eight hours!

Naturally, to conceive of such sizes, we must begin to think in new terms—for example, it would take 1,000 bacteria placed side by side to reach across the thin edge of a worn dime!

Not only this, but there are perhaps as many different kinds of microscopic plants and animals living within the soil as there are atop of it—and their ways of life differ just as profoundly.

The study of these micro-organisms in the soil—microbiology—is new, scarcely 15 years old but already great strides have been made to benefit mankind. Some fantastic finds have been made and human life-saving medicines have resulted—the antibiotics such as streptomycin, penicillin, chloromycin. Domesticated and put to man's use they are now helping destroy hostile bacteria.

So far, more than 2000 of these antibiotics have been isolated; there are thousands of others remaining.

Because of the dramatic discovery that many of our diseases are caused by bacteria, the false belief has grown that all microbes are hostile, something to be destroyed at once by antiseptics. Not so, in fact, microbes injurious to human life are comparatively rare, numbering perhaps one out of every 30,000.

Most Deadly Poison
Perhaps one of the most deadly—some scientists go so far as to say it is the most deadly poison yet known to man is actinomycin. Its appearance is deceptive: a colony of these look like the mold on an old shoe—and if you were to know it, give that fragrant "earthy" smell to freshly turned soil.

The main search in the soil today, however, is for other kinds "poisons"—bacteria which will destroy certain bacteria harmful to humans or inhibit their growth without adversely affecting the cells of the human body.

One of the best known microscopic dwellers of the soil is yeast. Thanks to its voracious appetite, we have wine. While feasting on grape sugar, this organism secretes alcohol thereby turning grapes into wine. Another micro-organism turns milk sour.

Others are less fussy in their diet, although selective in their choice of food. One tribe, for example, lives on hydrogen sulphide, the gas that gives rotten eggs their odor. Another lives on carbon monoxide—the same poison that comes out of the exhaust of our motor cars. Yet another, a small group, prefers carboic acid.

Prepare Plant Food
Why can we say that life as we know it on this earth could not go on without these millions of different microscopic organisms in the soil? Simply this: they prepare the food for plants, breaking down complex materials into simple substances which new plants can absorb. From these plants, vegetable-eating mammals can live, and from them, the meat-eating mammals. That's Homo sapiens.

As yet, this new science of the study of the micro-organisms in our soils is a comparatively new one. Who knows what wonders this life under our feet may hold? The new medicines it will produce? The new poisons—and whether for our use or destruction? Perhaps this study may ultimately solve the problems of some of today's "sick soils" that have been overworked and if so arrive at discoveries which will increase our old earth's underfed fertility vastly and simplify the task of feeding the earth's underfed hundreds of millions.

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Addition to Soil Conservation Area Plan of Petitioners

Petitions have been circulated in the extreme northwest corner of Jackson county proposing the area be included in the Sams Valley-Beagle Oil Conservation district.

The area proposed to be added to the district starts near Holcolm springs northwest of Sams Valley, continues northward to the Douglas county line just east of Richter mountain, and follows the Douglas and Josephine county lines to about a mile north of Old Baldy and eastward to Holcolm springs.

Hearing Planned
Petitions were forwarded to the state soil conservation committee, and if approved, a hearing will be held. Petitions presently are located at Gail's market in Wimer, the Evans Valley lockers and the Wimer cafe.

The Sams Valley-Beagle Oil Conservation district was organized in 1950, and in early 1954 the district was expanded to include most of northern Jackson county. The district presently comprises 896,040 acres of land.

The district was organized to work out cooperatively problems of irrigation, drainage, land leveling, land clearing, range improvement, weed control, flood control and other problems affecting use of land and water resources in the area.

Southern Malheur 'Disaster' Area

Denver — (U.P.)—President Eisenhower Saturday declared the southern part of Malheur county, Ore., an emergency drought disaster area eligible for assistance under the emergency grain relief program.

The action was taken at the request of Oregon Gov. Paul L.

Parents Urged To Vaccinate Their Children Against Unwitting Carrier of Polio Virus

(Editor's note: This is the second of a series of five articles on what parents should know about the Salk polio vaccine. Under Dr. Van Riper's direction the National Foundation sponsored the research development of the vaccine and he is in charge of the Foundation's program for vaccinating children in the first and second grades of school.)

By HART E. VAN RIPER, M.D. Medical Director Natl. Foundation for Infantile Paralysis

"Why did my child get polio? None of his playmates had it." Many a parent, suddenly confronted with the dreaded diagnosis of paralytic polio, has asked this.

The answer is that one of the child's playmates, or some other person who was not ill himself, did indeed have the polio virus and did communicate it. The unwitting carrier was protected from paralysis by polio antibodies in his blood. The child who came down with paralytic polio was not.

Had that child been given the vaccine that Dr. Jonas E. Salk developed with support from the March of Dimes, he might have been spared paralysis. His parents could not have been sure of this—no vaccine protects everybody—but the chances would have been somewhere between 60 to 90 per cent that the child would have been brought through his infection with, at worst, a brief illness, and more likely with no illness at all.

NLRB Completes Local Hearings; Moving to Bend

National Labor Relations Board hearings in Medford on charges of unfair labor practices filed by the Local International Woodworkers of America, CIO, union, against Red Blanket Lumber company of Eagle Point and Prospect, ended this week.

The NLRB will reconvene at Bend, Nov. 14, to continue the hearings. It is expected that the final phase of the hearings will be completed and a decision announced, before Thanksgiving.

The hearings, which started in Medford Oct. 24, are also concerned with charges against the Pine Industrial Relations Committee, which represents lumber firms in labor negotiations, and four central Oregon firms.

Started With Strike
The union charges arose out of a strike at the Red Blanket Lumber company which began in June, 1954. The company refused to reinstate employees to former or equivalent jobs when the strike ended in October, 1954.

The complaint also charges that the employer, in refusing to give certain data to the union concerning payroll and production figures, violated the National Labor Relations act.

Among those testifying for the defense during the Medford phase of the hearings were W. C. Mattson, manager of Red Blanket Lumber company; Willard Mattson Jr., assistant manager; Merlyn Harvey, office manager; and John Mantle, president of the PIRC.

Those testifying for the union were Edwin W. Kennan, director of economic research, IWA, Ben Brackenbury, president of Local 6-122, IWA; Critt W. Carroll, secretary of Local 6-122; Glenn Yorton, former local union vice-president; Thomas Denninger and Victor Conover, trustees of the union and Tim Sullivan, president of the Klamath Basin District 6 IWA council.

Arnold Wilson, former Red Blanket employee, and Leon Love, job steward at Red Blanket Mill number one, also testified at the hearings.

Patterson, who was informed of the action by telegram. The President also signed a letter to Federal Civil Defense Administrator Val Peterson authorizing the bid.

Malheur county borders on Nevada and Idaho. The relief will be made available through the Agriculture department. No specific amount of aid has been fixed.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday

Your doctor cannot tell you whether your child has been immunized naturally to paralytic polio through previous "silent infections." There is no simple, practical test he can make in his office. That is why every child should have the protection of the Salk vaccine—and for that matter why every young adult should have it too as soon as enough vaccine is available.

The vaccine achieves pretty much the same preventive effect, artificially, that an actual polio infection does naturally; that is, it sets in motion the human chemistry which produces protective antibodies, ready-made, into the blood stream in given, limited supply. Rather, it is a miniature Point 4 Program—helping the body to help itself.

The only way science has found to trigger this latent self-defense when nature has failed to do it

is through the use of the virus itself—by introducing inactivated virus directly into the body. In a small minority of instances nothing happens in most people the reaction to the presence of the virus is a quick emergency output of antibodies.

Safe Way Sought
It would be easy enough to do this dangerously. Dr. Salk's job was to find a way to do it safely. It was complicated, moreover, by the fact that there are three types of the polio virus, any one of which can cause paralysis. Hence all three types had to be embodied in the vaccine.

Dr. Salk rendered the virus harmless to human beings by "killing" it with a solution of formaldehyde. By the Salk method it is inactivated so that it cannot cause paralysis, yet it loses its effect on antibody production.

Sham Battle
Thus what happens in a Salk vaccination may be described as in the nature of a sham battle, in which the human system is conditioned to defend itself against a harmless facsimile of the polio virus, and after which it remains armed and ready in case the real thing comes along.

As soon as Dr. Salk and his colleagues learn how long the effect of one course of Salk vaccine shots lasts, and when, if ever, further booster shots are needed, immunity to paralytic polio can be made lifelong.

When the day of universal vaccination comes, at least three out of four of those persons who are now susceptible to paralysis will be forever safe from it. This means that almost all of America's children will be free of the threat, and their parents free of the fear.

Everyone takes an interest in the weather. You can make that interest scientific with a perusal of Irving Krick's "Sun, Sea, and Sky; Weather in Our World." Another good course in general science is offered in "Frontiers of Astronomy" by Fred Hoyle. The author brings the great questions of space and time within the grasp of the reader who has no specialized training in mathematics and physics.

Public Speaking
The business man who wishes he'd taken that elective course in public speaking can make up for lost time with "The Speechmaker's Complete Handbook," by Edward L. Friedman.

Here is a real storehouse of interesting, colorful material which will be a source of information and entertainment as well as a complete planning guide for public speakers.

How were you in history? You'll probably find it a great deal more interesting to read when there's no term examination to anticipate. Try Alfred Duggan's "My Life for My Sheep," a highly imaginative, yet authentic, biography of Thomas a Becket, clerk, archbishop, martyr—the man for whose murder a king was flogged. His life is a familiar story, what is unusual is Mr. Duggan's masterly treatment of the subject.

Northwest History
If American history holds more interest for you than that of medieval Europe, your library suggests the definitive biography of Chief Joseph, by Helen Howard, or "The Journals of Lewis and Clark," edited by Bernard de Voto. Any journey you take in the Northwest will be made more interesting by this background study.

Perhaps geography is more to your taste. If you like it near, we offer you Ruby El Hult's "Untamed Olympics," telling the story of one of the wildest, strangest, most fascinating regions in America, Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Go farther afield, if you choose, with John Gunther's latest inside book, "Inside Africa." In the familiar manner of his earlier surveys the author investigates political and social conditions on the African continent. (Should you wish to investigate the continent yourself, you will find a practical guide to Africa, very recently published.)

There are no tuition fees; your student card is issued to you free of charge. Why not enroll this week in the "People's University" on the Medford Public Library campus?

News About Books From the Library

BY MISS HELEN WEBSTER
Medford Librarian

Why stop learning? It's a good question to ask yourself during American Education week; and American Education week is a good time to enroll in the "People's University," your public library.

Sometimes we fail to realize the importance of education until the opportunity for formal schooling has passed. Frequently new interests point out the need for background information in fields not covered en route to a diploma. Fortunately your public library, an integral part of the American system of public education, stands ready to help you with information that is as fascinating as it is useful.

Origins Told
You'll be entertained and informed at once in reading Charles Funk's "Heavens to Betsy and Other Curious Sayings." Here we learn the origins of familiar expressions and gain a fresh appreciation of our American everyday speech.

Power, Safety Advances Listed For New Chevrolet
Detroit — Advances in durability, safety and power highlight engineering achievements in the 1956 Chevrolet.

Engines, both V-8s and sixes, have redesigned high-lift camshafts and hydraulic valve lifters. Horsepower varies from 140 in the six cylinder with an 8-to-1 compression ratio to the 205 V-8 with a compression ratio of 9.25 to 1.

Chevrolets are available in standard, overdrive or Powerglide transmissions. New Clutch Facing
Durability for V-8 engines include features of a new clutch facing to provide smoother operation and a new filter system which prolongs the life of the engine by providing cleaner oil throughout the engine.

Among safety features of the 1956 series is new sealed beam headlights, designed to lower beam lens pattern which provides more light along the right-hand-side of the highway. The new lights also provide improved vision in inclement weather.

Another safety feature is crash-tested door locks which reduce danger of doors springing open in an accident. The feature was introduced on the Chevrolet last year.

The 1956 Chevrolet is on display at Courtesy Chevrolet, Ninth and Bartlett.

Check Case Suspect Arrested in East

Alfred L. Mayes of East Lynn, W. Va., is being held in Wayne, W. Va., for local authorities for uttering and publishing a false check. Medford police said Mayes passed a \$1,000 company check, which was payable to Vener Sale corporation from Pacific Forest Sales.

Police said Mayes had in his possession at the time of arrest a \$4,000 bogus check. Mayes also is wanted in Los Angeles, Calif., for automobile theft, police said.

ARTICLES FILED

Salem — (U.P.)—Articles of incorporation were filed here Saturday for the Jackson County Dairy Herd Improvement Association with headquarters at Eagle Point. They were signed by Will Hubbard, Victor Birdseye, Don Geren, Lewis Clark and Chester Jensen.

Freight Car Shortage Continues to Improve

Salem — (U.P.)—Public Utilities Commissioner Charles H. Heitzel Saturday reported continued improvement in the western Oregon freight car shortage situation.

He said Southern Pacific last week provided 67 per cent of the cars ordered by lumber shippers compared with 62 per cent the previous week.



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